



Cornell University
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School
DigitalCommons@ILR

Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

9-9-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 36)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/justice>

Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.

Support this valuable resource today!

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Justice by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact catherwood-dig@cornell.edu.

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact web-accessibility@cornell.edu for assistance.

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 36)

Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27:6

JUSTICE

"Workers
of the world
united! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. IX. No. 36.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Local 24 Wins Cambridge Raincoat Shops

Boston Non-Union Stronghold Now
Unionized

As a result of the general strike now gripping the Boston raincoat trade, the raincoat workers' organization in Boston, Local 24, has already scored what in local circles is regarded as a signal victory, namely the unionization of the Cambridge shops.

The strike is now two weeks old, and is expected soon to terminate in a clean-cut victory for the workers. The most important shops in Boston have already settled and the remaining shops are expected to come to terms before long. But what the Boston raincoat makers consider a special gain is the capitulation of the raincoat employers in Cambridge, long regarded as a stronghold of the non-union portion of the trade and for many years past a difficult problem for the union to tackle.

The strike of Local 24 is carried on with the aid of the International and of Local 29 of New York, which had sent to Boston Vice-President David Ginzold, its manager, and Meyer Polinsky, its chairman, to aid in its direction.

Rousing Shop Chairmen's Meeting Hails Union Drive

Chief Topics of Discussion at Shop Heads' Gathering—Tens of Thousands of Cloakmakers Work Under Union Conditions Is Revealed—Confidence Among the Workers Vastly Increased—Chairmen Give President Sigman and Manager Hochman an Ovation—Dr. Moskowitz Appeals for "Prosanis" Label.

The shop chairmen's meeting last Wednesday August 31, at Arlington Hall, with Bro. Benj. Kaplan, president of the Joint Board, in the chair, served once more to emphasize the awakening in the ranks of the cloak and dress workers in New York.

The main subject of discussion at the meeting, as was to be expected, was the current unionizing drive under the auspices of the International Joint Board. Vice-President Hochman in his report-address to the chairmen declared that the Communists, after they had been dislodged by the workers, had left behind them a heritage

Ingersoll Orders Sweeping Examination of Books In New York Cloak Industr

Staff of Accountants Begins Checking Up at Once on Cloak Firms—Dealing With Outside Contractors—Non-Union Shops Will Be Cut Off From Work or Forced to Sign Union Contracts—Dress Jobbers Will Also Be Compelled to Abide by Agreement Terms—General Manager Hochman Appeals to Workers in Non-Union Shops to Report to Office All Information—Active Men Asked to Join Saturday—Work Patrol Committees—All Members Must Have Season Work Cards to Maintain Standing in the Union.

As a result of the repeated complaints by the representatives of the International Joint Board to the effect that many jobbers, members of the jobbers' association, and many inside manufacturers are sending work to non-union contractors in violation of the collective agreement between them and the union, Impartial Chairman Raymond V. Ingersoll ordered this week an investigation of the books of all the jobbers and manufacturers who do work outside their premises.

The complaint of the union against the jobbers and manufacturers for violation of this vital part of the agreement came to a head two weeks ago at a conference, at which President Sigman and Vice-President Hochman plainly told the leaders of the associations that unless they mean to enforce these agreements honestly there is little reason for further maintaining them.

The order directed by Chairman Ingersoll refers not only to jobbers and manufacturers, members of the associations, but also to sub-manufacturers and to independent manufacturers under contract with the union. A

(Continued on page 2)

Industrial Council Will Enforce Strict Adherence To Agreement

Board of Directors of "Inside" Manufacturers' Association Will Enforce Strict Compliance with Contract in All Industrial Council Shops—All Complaints Will be Carefully Investigated

The Board of Governors of the Industrial Council, Inc., at its meeting on Thursday last, September 1 agreed to see that all shops belonging to

U Season In A of Glory

Dancing During
Guests Crowd Big
Labor Day

Season at the Workers' has wound up in a blaze. The Labor Day week-end, officially closing the season (the house will be open until Sept. 12), will go down as the most memorable in the history of the union resort.

Blessed by the most perfect weather, colorful events followed each other in quick succession. Friday night was ushered in by a pageant given at the dance casino based upon Walt Whitman's "Mystic Trumpeter." Under the expert direction of James Phillips, whose efforts to entertain Unity guests have proved invaluable, the pageant moved as smoothly as the cramped stage permitted. It was a panorama of working-class struggles and aspirations down the ages and symbolized labor's ultimate emancipation from bondage. The cast was very well selected and Phillips' introductory song a thing of beauty.

Saturday night was marked by a very ambitious concert program to which a half dozen artists contributed. Abe Berg, the young violinist who, it is predicted, will soon join the ranks

(Continued on page 2)

Big Chicago Cloak Shops Pledge Loyalty T International

Communist Group Enjoined From Using Union's Name—Chicago Federation of Labor Condemns Communist Union-Wreckers

How the Communist clique in Chicago, which for many months held

away in the local Joint Board, had lost its hold upon the local organization and how it has now been fully eliminated as a factor in the local situation, is made clear from a letter printed below, which we have just received from that city. The communication is accompanied by resolutions adopted by several of the large cloak shops in Chicago, which speak for themselves. The letter follows:

Dear Editor of "Justice":
Enclosed you will find copies of resolutions adopted this week at shop meetings by several of our shops. One of them is Schenker, Mischel & Weinstock, the biggest cloak shop in Chicago. Another is the shop of Shuman Brothers, and still others are the shops of Handmacher and Mischel, Arbelman Bros. and Blair, Ellisberg & Co. The committees which signed these resolutions are well-known members of our Chicago locals. The resolutions follow:

(Continued on page 3)

Communists Fail In Scab Stunt In Schindelheim Shop

Send Scabs to Struck Shop and Arrest Union Pickets—Firm Later Settles with Union

The Communists ousted from control in the New York cloak and dress unions are now engaged directly in the tidy work of supplying scabs to firms on strike in the cloak and dress trade. They work hand in hand with scab employers in interfering with the organizing committees of the Joint Board, they call upon the police to help the bosses prevent the organizers from approaching the non-union shops and, finally, they even arrest union pickets in front of struck shops.

A case in point is the Schindelheim

shop, 575 Eighth Avenue, where the union declared a strike early last week. The Communist commissars at once offered to send up scabs to the shop and gave the bosses a helping hand in arresting the pickets in front of the shops.

Despite this effort, however, the firm was compelled to seek peace with the union. The help of the Communist scab agency did not seem to yield the right results, and after two days on strike the firm settled with the workers' organization and signed an agreement.

Council members live up strictly to the terms of the collective agreement existing between this manufacturers' organization and the International Union. A statement to this effect was issued by Mr. I. Grossman chairman of the Council, after the meeting.

This action was taken by the Council subsequent to a conference between the union and all the cloak manufacturers' associations in New York City the week before. The union at that conference had complained that many manufacturers and jobbers are violating the agreement by sending out work to non-union firms, which greatly handicaps the restoration of normal conditions in the market. Many firms were also employing workers not in good standing with the union.

The directors of the Council informed Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll that they would act at once to help placing the industry on normal conditions. They also authorized Samuel Klein, manager of the Council, to investigate in the future carefully each complaint made by the union, as well as to lend every assistance to the machinery of the impartial chairman to see that the contract is enforced.

The impartial chairman, Mr. Ingersoll, will now present the same requests for strict contract enforcement to the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, the jobbers, and to the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, the sub-manufacturers.

Ingersoll Orders Examination of All Cloak Employers' Books

(Continued from Page 1)

staff of accountants under the direction of the office of the impartial chairman have already started this week to investigate the books of a number of jobbers and manufacturers to ascertain whether the charges brought by the union are true. Firms found to be supplying non-union contractors with work will have to discontinue at once sending garments to these contractors unless the latter agree to unionize their shops and sign union agreements.

Vice-President Julius Hochman, the general manager of the Joint Board, expressed great satisfaction with the move made by Chairman Ingersoll as a substantial aid in the present drive of the union to eliminate non-union competition from the cloak market and to stabilize production conditions as a whole. The union will certainly follow up every move of the examiners of the books of the jobbers and manufacturers and will be quick to enforce union conditions wherever any violations of the agreement occurs.

General Manager Hochman also declared that arrangements are under way to have an examination of jobbers' books carried out in the dress industry with the purpose in view of eliminating as fast as possible the scab elements from that industry, too. Details of this arrangement will appear next week in our journal.

Ingersoll's Statement

Impartial Chairman Ingersoll issued a statement in which he outlined the purpose of this examination stating as follows:

"The collective agreements, entered into after the termination of last year's disastrous strike," Mr. Ingersoll said, "provided a new and additional method for checking up on conditions in the industry, especially as related to the carrying out of the terms of the contracts. For this purpose an accounting service has been established in the office of the impartial chairman and this is being used for examination of the books of manufacturers, submanufacturers, and jobbers in a survey which will reach throughout the industry.

"The present survey is being focused upon the problem generally considered by all factors to be the most demoralizing. This is the maintenance of irresponsible shops which have agreed to no standards or obligations whatever, have no dealings with the organized workers, and have failed to affiliate with those associations which—together with the union—are trying to establish a measure of good order

and fair competition within the industry.

"In looking for sources during this season, the books of more than 100 firms have already been examined. These have mostly been firms under independent contract with the union. The work, however, is now being extended to cover members of the Industrial Council and of the Merchants' and American associations.

"The investigation has not been occasioned by the making of any charges and, so far from being directed against any organized group, is intended to serve the best interests of all. It is confined to transactions of this season.

"Its purpose is not to impose penalties but to stabilize and improve conditions through intelligent concerted efforts of the organizations. Under the collective agreements, all four organizations are pledged to cooperate in this effort, and all have given renewed assurance that they will do so."

Hochman Appeals to Members to Help in Fight Against Non-Union Shops

The union, however, is not content to rely only upon the aid of the special examination of the jobbers' and manufacturers' books, though it regards it of great value in the present fight against scabbery and the sweat shops in the trade. The union has mobilized a great organizing force which, for the past month, has carried on a relentless drive against the non-union elements in the industry, and this campaign is to go on unabated until this pestilence is rooted out. In connection with this campaign General Manager Hochman issued another appeal this week to all the workers in the cloak and dress shops of New York:

"Brothers and Sisters:

"The fight against scabbery and the degrading conditions of the non-union shop is on today in full swing. Every day brings evidence of new acquisitions, of new gains in the non-union territory, every day brings us new encouragement and hope.

"But we must have your cooperation in every move we make, in every step we undertake. The scab shop is on the run, it is dodging the attacking force of the Union, and is flying under cover. We need your help to keep the office informed of what is going on in the non-union shops, and you, those who are compelled to work this season in a non-union shop, or those who know of their existence, are asked to notify the office of our Union at once concerning their location and condition. Remember, this is of extreme value to the Union, so do your duty as union workers should.

"There is another matter of great importance that we want you to know. We have organized 'Sabbath' committees from members of all locals and these committees have in the past few weeks visited the cloak and dress district on Saturday morning to discover union members violating the five-day week rule. We wish to say that this activity has yielded fine results, inasmuch as we have succeeded in turning back a number of workers who have become accustomed to disregard in this manner the law of the Union which we fought so hard to establish in the industry.

"And there is another thing to which I should like to call your attention, members of the Joint Board locals. This week there will be forwarded to all shop chairmen a letter signed by the district managers to make a thorough inspection of the working cards in the shops so as to make certain that the union members working in them are union workers in good stand-

Shop Chairmen Hail Union's Advance

(Continued from Page 1)

tion to unionize this mass of shops. 'The Communist outfit,' Bro. Hochman continued, 'is dead as a factor in the industry. But as an active scab agency it is still capable of doing some harm to the members of the union; their 'strong arm' henchmen frequently attack members of our organization committee near the non-union shops; their 'revolutionary' agents quite often telephone for the police whenever our men appear at a shop in the interests of the present campaign, and are, in general, carrying on all-around scab work and playing the game of the bosses in full.

"Nevertheless, the drive in the non-union territory is making steady progress. Hundreds of shops already were taken down and the prospects of many more shops to be declared in strike within the next few weeks are excellent."

Hochman further dwelt in his report on the growing importance of the union in the industry, since the organization was taken over by the International Joint Board. He cited facts and names of firms—the Klipstein firm, the Margolis firm, the firm of Goldstein & Resnick—which were forced to acknowledge union conditions in their shops, some of them paying severe fines for infraction of union rules. Hochman concluded his report with a special appeal for the unemployed in the cloak trade, asking the chairmen to leave nothing undone in their shops to provide jobs for men with jobs wherever there is a vacancy. His speech was awarded by generous applause.

Chairmen Rise to Greet President Sigman

When President Sigman took the floor, after Hochman closed his talk, the chairmen rose like one person and tendered him a rousing ovation. His speech, sober and well thought out as usual, was nevertheless marked by touches of genuine optimism. "There were moments when there was real ground for fears that our union would be completely swept off the map, but that day is now gone. We have passed the peak of our doubts long ago, and within a comparatively brief period succeeded in putting the old organiza-

tion on a new, sound basis. It is no exaggeration to state that we have done wonderfully well to have been able to achieve what we have in such a short time despite the strike and the Communist sabotage."

Brother Sigman told the chairmen his reasons for the belated season in the cloak shops. The main reason is the jobber method of production and the terrific competition created by it in the whole trade. Retailers, who are well posted on the jobber methods, are not buying much in advance, and as a result the whole industry is leading a from hand-to-mouth existence even during the so-called season months.

"Yet, despite all these hardships, tens of thousands of cloakmakers, members of the International, are working now under union conditions. The Communists are busy disseminating, through their press and in the trade district, vile and baseless rumors to the effect that the 'union is broken', in order to dishearten and discourage our members. But these rumors, fabricated in the Communist lie factory, have no foundation in fact today. The union is in full control in the overwhelming majority of the shops, and its influence is growing by leaps and bounds daily."

In concluding his talk, President Sigman called on the chairmen to join in the active support of the union's present task. His remarks provoked a thunder of applause.

Shop Chairmen Speak; Moskowitz Appeals for Label

After speeches by Hochman and Sigman, the floor was turned over to the chairmen, who, one after another, took turns in discussing the organizing work of the International Joint Board, and voicing hearty approval of the constructive trade union purpose by which this work is inspired. The voluntary tax by workers in many shops in favor of this campaign attests to the deep interest of the workers in this unifying activity.

The meeting was opened by an appeal made by Dr. Henry Moskowitz, director of the Sanitary Label Division of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, in behalf of the "Prosaia" label. The chairmen received his appeal with keen attention.

Labor Day Festival Closes Unity Season

(Continued from Page 1)

of the foremost virtuosi of the day, again entranced the crowded audience with his magical playing. Phillips was as robust as usual with thundering songs, which showed his basso to good effect. Others on the program also contributed their share of the entertainment.

Sunday morning David Pinski, the noted Yiddish playwright, wound up his series of play readings with another of his plays, one of his earliest. He was very well received.

But Sunday night, with its Mardi Gras, was the climax of good feeling and jollity. Many of the guests wore colorful costumes; confetti and gay streamers sprinkled the dance hall and delightful music kept things humming. Exhibition dancing, in which Maurice Silver and Shirley Albert participated, concluded the formal affair.

Many of the guests, however, adjourned to nearby tables, where impromptu group songs were kept up until dawn. It was unanimously voted that the week-end was a complete success. Over 900 guests were accommodated, and the only regrettable feature was that several hundred other visitors were turned away for lack of accommodations.

SOCCER SEASON STARTS

The American Soccer League season will open this week-end with nine games scheduled, four on Saturday and five on Sunday. The three local teams will figure in five of these games. The New York Glants play away from home on both days, opening at Boston on Saturday and Fall River on Sunday. Indiana Flooring has Providence as visitors on Saturday and New Bedford on Sunday.

The Brooklyn Wanderers have only one game scheduled for the week-end, the league champions, Bethlehem Steel, opening the league season in Brooklyn on Sunday. On form displayed in preseason exhibition games Bethlehem appears to again be favorite for the championship and the Wanderers have drawn a particularly hard assignment for their opening league match.

HARLEM BANK OF COMMERCE
2118—2nd AVENUE, NEW YORK
Tel. Lehigh 3800-1-2-3
Branch: 431—3rd AVE., N. Y.
Tel. Lexington 8055

The Workmen's Bank for Workmen

All Banking Operations

4 1/2 %

Money Orders, Letters of Credit, Drafts, Steamship Agency, Notary Public, Safe Deposits.

AFFILIATED WITH

ATLANTIC STATE BANK
594 ATLANTIC AVE., BROOKLYN
Branches:
182 GRAHAM AVE., BROOKLYN
100th ST., Cor. 1st AVE., New York

Among the Dressmakers, Loc. 22

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary

Our section meetings last Thursday, August 25, were successful from every standpoint. The attendance and spirit at all meetings was splendid. The Bronx section still enjoys the reputation of being the "banner section". No hall is too large for the up-town folks. That is very commendable. All meetings opened with a rising vote to memory of the two martyred Boston victims, Sacco and Vanzetti.

The minutes of the Executive Board and the Joint Board for the several meetings held subsequent to the last section meetings, were discussed at length and were approved.

The members showed a very keen interest in the drive conducted by our organization and have, without exception, promised to aid the Executive Board in its effort to unionize the dress industry, in every possible manner.

We gather from the reports of our business agents, as well as from the continued call for help from the employers, that the fall season is well under way. In fact, we can say that it is quite busy in the dress industry. Of course, here and there, are still a few shops where, because of one or another reason, the workers are not yet fully at work. That is, however, the exception.

In the course of the last few months, our office has made every effort to remedy the conditions in the industry. We have particularly concentrated on the matter of settling prices, urging our members to insist upon such settlements as would yield them a fair living, not only when they are employed but also to provide for the many months of the slack season. We hope that our agitation along these lines has borne fruit, to the extent that our members may be able to pay up their debts and steer clear of any new ones.

While on the point of debts, may we not call the attention of our members with regard to their financial indebtedness to the Union?

The weekly dues of our organization, as compared to the dues in other organizations, very small. Yet, this sum of 35 cents per week represents, practically speaking, the only source of the Union's income. Hence, the reason for our constant reminding the members of their financial obligation. There is no secret in it. In fact, we want the members to know.

The present campaign conducted by our Union is involving us in a tremendous expense and we should be very sorry, indeed, if the Organization Committee should have to curtail its activities because of lack of funds. We appeal, therefore, to our members to pay up their dues and change their member cards. Do it now. A strong and powerful organization always means better working conditions and higher earnings.

The number of dressmakers applying for membership in our Union has increased to such proportions in the last few weeks that our Membership Committee has been obliged to meet twice a week. Hundreds of persons, who

either never belonged to the Union, or whose membership has lapsed, are eager to join the organization.

Each applicant, making the first down payment of \$10.00, receives an official receipt. This receipt is good for only fifteen days unless renewed at the local office. The financial department of our local received instructions to enforce the rule with reference to these receipts. Our shop chair-ladies and chairmen are urged, therefore, to cooperate with the office in the enforcement of this rule. Each person employed in a union shop must have an official membership card. A privilege is granted to those who are not yet members to join the Union and pay up their initiation fee in several payments. This privilege, however, is temporary. After a person has worked in a shop three or four weeks, there is no good reason why he should be permitted to continue working unless he takes out a membership card.

Our Sick and Tuberculosis Benefit Fund is functioning officially since July 1, 1927. In the last two months many members were assisted financially. The sick benefit to which our sick members are entitled, is being paid weekly by check. No one need undergo any red tape. The office is making every effort to show the members that when they are in need of benefit, they are not deceiving anything else but what is legally due them and to which they are legitimately and otherwise entitled to. Quite obviously, only those members who are paying regularly their dues and assessment to this fund are eligible to any benefits. The others are excluded.

The assessments which the members pay towards our Sick and Tuberculosis Fund are only 35 cents a month. In case of sickness, each member is entitled to ten weeks benefit during any calendar year. It is not an empty boast or exaggeration to say that few, if any, organizations or insurance companies pay the amount of benefit we do for so small a premium.

We take this occasion to suggest to our members to form the habit of paying the monthly assessment of this fund whenever they are paying their weekly dues. It is not a good policy to postpone the paying of these monthly assessments until the books are changed.

The extreme effort which is now being made by the Organization Department to organize the many non union dress shops, is meeting with satisfactory results. Despite the many obstacles and drawbacks, both from the employers as well as the Communists, several shops are added daily to the list of shops already under the Union's control.

A good indication of the success with which the work of our Organization Committee is proceeding is to be seen in the wild and brazen yelpings of our Communist "friends". One day they accuse us of pulling un-registered shops and forcing the workers to join our Union, while the next day they tell us that no shops are being organized at all and the whole scheme is only to make some money.

The position they take is that every

Biggest Chicago Shops Pledge Allegiance

(Continued from Page 1)

Shenker, Michel and Weinstock Shop

We, the workers of Shenker, Michel & Weinstock, assembled at a shop meeting on this date of Tuesday, August 22, 1927, at the headquarters of our Union, 328 W. Van Buren Street, resolve the following:

WHEREAS, we have built and maintained our Union under the banner of our parent organization, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

WHEREAS, through its efforts and inspiration it was possible to raise the standards of the workers in our industry to what they are today so it is possible for a worker to maintain his family in comparative decency, and

WHEREAS, of recent years a group of irresponsible individuals parading under the banner of leftism, have attempted to destroy our confidence in our organization,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, who have built this organization, pledge our loyalty and whole-hearted support to the local Joint Board as well as to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all workers of the Chicago locals to follow our example.

M. Roth, S. Stern, P. Goldstein, Local 5; S. Rosenblatt, W. Ensell, Local 18; M. Horowitz, J. Jackson, A. Oliver, M. Gruber, A. Schickman, S. Holtzman, D. Schickman, Local 59; L. Berlin M. Bialis, Shop Chairman, Local 18.

Committee.

Shuman Bros. Shop

We the workers of Schuman Brothers, assembled at a meeting of our shop on Thursday, August 25, adopted the following resolution.

Being that our Union is the only body which was instrumental in elevating conditions for the workers in our Union, and

Being that a group of irresponsible individuals controlled by a political group are knowingly and intentionally besmirching and vilifying every honest member of our Union and are urging some of our members to withdraw from our International and join their scab clique,

open scab shop is an un-registered shop and is, therefore, rightfully a Communist shop.

This is very amusing and we kind of like this. Our contention has always been that they do not control any union shops and this admission on their part closes the matter.

The fact is that the Organization Committee proceeds to organize certain shops regardless of the fact whether there are any Communists employed there or not. We consider every shop which is not in contractual relations with our Union an open shop and we propose to organize every shop whether the commissars like it or not.

Be it therefore resolved to condemn those efforts and to stand by our organization and to do everything that is humanly possible to make it strong and a more effective weapon for the betterment of conditions in the shops.

A. Gold, H. Flaum, S. Sperada, I. Brodzinsky, A. Bogdanovsky, E. Lewis, A. Holtzman, I. Gallo, Committee.

Communist Influence Wiped Out

As these resolutions indicate, the political clique which dominated over the I. L. G. W. U. locals for more than a year, is now completely beaten. The Communists apparently recognize that they are defeated, though for a while they made an attempt to use the name of the International and of the legally constituted organization in Chicago in order to show some sign of life among the workers. Some of them even boasted in the local Communist press, that they would go into a court and obtain an injunction against the International for having supervised the elections which cast them out of office. The officers of the Joint Board and of the International in charge of these elections in Chicago, however, stole a march on the Communists and obtained an order from Judge Williams, which forbids the Communist wreckers to use the name of the International in any of their activities, to visit shops in the name of the Union, and to negotiate with firms as representatives of the workers.

Fake Communist Stoppage a Failure

Having met with a rebuff in every other direction, the few Chicago commissars are now attempting to provoke strikes here and there in an effort to confuse the regular activity of the Union. We are quoting from the letter the following incident:

In the dress shop of Hyman Bros., a Communist girl sought to obtain the names and addresses of the workers from the time-keeper employed in the shop, and was discharged. It is quite likely that if this girl were to have reported her case to the Joint Board, it would have intervened on her behalf and made an attempt to reinstate her. When Brother Sol Lubow, the chairman of the operators' department of this shop suggested to this girl that she appear at the Joint Board and present her grievance, she refused, stating that she would rather settle directly with the firm than come to the office of the Union. In addition to that, she insulted a few of the finishers to leave the shop, and these finishers lost their jobs on account of it.

Meanwhile, organized labor in Chicago is continuing to condemn roundly the Communists for their anti-union conduct. At the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor held on Sunday, September 4, the Communists were branded as common scabs, and President John Fitzpatrick and Secretary Eckels pointed out at the meeting that the Communists had stabbed the International in the back and are attempting to use the same dagger against the entire American Labor movement.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2145

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 36.

Friday, September 9, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1918.

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor
244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIN LOVELY
General President

CHARLES L. BAINE,
General Secretary-Treasurer



JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 3148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 36.

Friday, September 9, 1937

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

EDITORIALS

OUR UNION LIVES!

The Communist lie factory, and the thin, squeaky voices from the near-Communist "peace" camp, have been more than ever busy in the last few weeks fabricating rumors to the effect that the "union is broken and is not functioning", that "all is lost for years to come," etc., etc.

It is palpable enough that this new propaganda is but a revised edition of the old attempt to discourage our members. It is the old poison in a new container, the old Communist snake wearing new spots. Having met defeat in an out-and-out conflict with the cloakmakers and dressmakers and having been chased off the Union's grounds, these professional demoralizers are now attempting to disrupt the reawakened spirit of our workers by defeatist propaganda.

This new poison-gas attack, however, is destined to fall just as all former Communist and near-Communist attacks on our Union have failed. This attack is futile because it is based on a lie. The Communists in their own sheets, and their "peace-loving" allies in the Jewish bourgeois press may fabricate rumors and falsehoods without end, but these fabrications will not break down the morale of our members. They will burst like bubbles one after another because they have no foundation in fact today in our industry.

This point was brought home with penetrating clarity by President Sigman last week at the shop chairmen's meeting in Arlington Hall, which applauded it to an echo. After a sober analysis of conditions in the cloak industry especially, President Sigman summed up the situation as follows:

There is no more ground for fear for the Union's existence in the cloak and dress industry. The unfortunate strike of last year alone, leaving out of consideration the Communist agitation, was sufficient to have wrecked any trade union no matter how strongly entrenched. The Communist affliction naturally made recovery still harder and more precarious. Nevertheless, under the leadership of the International, the cloakmakers' and dressmakers' organizations "came back" miraculously quick, and this fact speaks volumes for the inherent loyalty and deep-seated devotion of our workers to their union. It is a fact, which no amount of Communist defeatist lies can refute that tens of thousands of cloakmakers are working today in union shops under union conditions, that the overwhelming majority of the industry today is union, and that the organization is relentlessly, day after day, occupying more and more non-union territory, despite all Communist sabotage, despite their flagrant functioning as a strike-breaking agency and as an open ally of the scab employers.

The International has saved the union for the cloakmakers and for the dressmakers by its courageous and drastic step last December, and the Communist saboteurs and their underworld and scab allies in our industry know it. From the broken shell as the Communist had left it after the ill-fated strike, the international has converted the union within a half year into a live, fighting, wide-awake organization, and has made it once again feared by the sweater element and respected by the better type employers in the industry. The Communist have failed in their frontal attack upon the cloakmakers, and are now trying to stab them in the back by filling the air with lying stories of a "broken union", of a "hopeless situation", and with similar dishonest yarns.

But the cloakmakers and the dressmakers by this time know better than to believe Communist fairy tales. What they know now is that they do have a union in most of their shops. Not a union that is tucked away in the vest-pocket of a political clique, not a union in name only but actually a mere pawn in the Communist game—but an honest-to-goodness labor organization that is actually concerned with the humble and mean interests of the men and women in the cloak and dress shops.

And they also know that this union of theirs has come to stay—all the machinations of the Communists and their scab-boss allies to the contrary notwithstanding. They further know that the Communist raid upon their organization has proved a complete fiasco—as Foster, the chief protagonist of Communist "boring from within", himself has admitted at the Communist convention in New York last week when he advised his followers that the Moscow Internationale wanted to "get the 'key' industries of America under its control as quickly as possible," and that "too much attention was being paid to the Jewish workers in the needle trades."

Well, we may easily appreciate Foster's disappointment with

the result of Communist activity in the needle trades. On the whole, save for the fact that they have succeeded in weakening several of the needle trades union for a time, the result has been dismal from the viewpoint of the Moscow Internationale. What headway the American agents of Moscow are likely to make in the "key" industries, such as transportation, metal and mining, is already foreshadowed by another admission by the same Foster who stated that Communist agents "went into the rubber and automobile industry but found that the majority of the workers there were Americans and the organizers made little headway."

In other words, when it came to doing constructive organizing work among unorganized workers, the Communist found the task fruitless and too tardy to suit their taste. They are only capable of mischief and ruin in such well-organized industries as the needle trades, which in the end netted them dismal disappointment, as they now themselves admit. Small wonder they are beating retreat; small wonder Foster is advising his "educational leaguers" to pay in the future less attention to the "Jewish workers in the needle trades."

But whether they follow Foster's advice or not, as far as our unions are concerned, the Communist goose is cooked. And despite all their frothing and raging, despite all their lies and defeatist propaganda, our Union in the cloak and dress industry lives today and flourishes. Before this season is over, we should see most of the remaining non-union shops in the cloak trade in every district in New York City either unionized or driven out of the trade as a plague and an abomination. And the Union should be in a position, within another season or two, to sweep the sweaters and the sharks out of their last holes in the trade, and once more make the cloak industry a one-hundred per cent union industry as it was before the Communists had undertaken to capture it.

WELL DONE, BOSTON! AND CHICAGO!

Each day the news from Chicago and Boston becomes more cheerful, more heartening for the loyal members of the Union.

Only a few weeks ago, the reports from both cities were all but encouraging. The members, we were told, had been deeply antagonized against the International by Communist poison waves, the organizations were shot to pieces and damaged beyond early repair. The International was facing a terribly hard and long task if it ever undertook to salvage the local wreckage in both cities.

But the International, undaunted by these prognostications did enter the field both in Chicago and Boston at the crucial moment. It found the organizations in both cities in bad shape,—in Chicago in much worse shape because in that city the Communists had been in undisputed control over the joint board for a longer period and had ruthlessly exploited it for Communist party advantages. In both cities, the International made its appeal directly to the workers for the principles and policies of constructive American trade unionism, and in Boston and Chicago alike the response from the workers in one fell swoop has driven the enemies of the Union out of the organization and practically eliminated them as a factor in the local markets.

And now what a different story, what a different account of local conditions we hear from Boston as told in the report of the marvelous installation meeting of the newly elected Boston Joint Board!

The platform is deluged with flowers, sent by shops, locals, and individual members. The big hall is crowded with as enthusiastic an assemblage of union members as ever graced a trade union meeting in Boston. Every eye and ear is riveted on the speakers upon the stage, Vice-presidents Halperin and Reisberg, who tell the audience in the convincing language of men who had themselves gone through the fight and tasted of its fire, of the background of the struggle against the Communist attack, the struggle for the safety of our Union. What a storm of applause, what shouts of joy greet every salient point made by the speakers, what a demonstration for the International this meeting is, in Boston, where only a short time ago disunion and treachery brazenly stalked through the ranks of our organization!

And what about Chicago?

It would seem that in the Windy City the Communist house of cards which appeared to the untrained eye so formidable from the outside had crashed so completely that not even the proverbial grease spot remains of it.

The new Joint Board is functioning, at last, as a trade union in the women's wear trades in Chicago. The woe-begone handful of commissars had been warned, in addition, not to dare use the name of the "I. L. G. W. U.", or the names of any of its legitimate divisions in Chicago, on the penalty of severe punishment. The scattered Communist agents can't even hire a hole-in-the-wall for their "union activity", and if it were not for their occasional appearance on the street corners in the garment district to peddle union stamps, one might think that they had all emigrated to Moscow.

On the other hand, shop after shop—the big shops that actually represent the cloak industry in Chicago—are pledging allegiance daily to the International Union and to the Chicago Joint Board; and the entire market, including the employers' associations and the independent manufacturers, has recognized the fact that the Communists have definitely passed out of the local picture.

Our workers in Boston and Chicago have given once again the lie to the steady assertions of our enemies that we are not capable of maintaining a trade union. The marvelous "comeback"

Combating Seasonal Unemployment In Ladies' Garment Industry

Address by Elias Reisberg, Vice-President, I. L. G. W. U.,
Delivered at Conference on Unemployment, July 30, 1927,
Under the Auspices of Philadelphia Labor College and Philadelphia Central Labor Union, at Bryn Mawr, Pa.

I realize fully well that the problem of unemployment is not a simple one. After all, we live and work in an industrial regime which, notwithstanding many signs of monopoly in several branches of industry, is largely highly competitive. Each establishment is working in accordance with its own plans, having in mind a larger output and larger sales of its own product. The result is occasional or rather periodical overproduction, which results in contraction of production and lay-offs of workers, who quite often are unemployed for long periods of time. Were it possible to organize one big trust or one big cooperative institution which should embrace the entire industrial and commercial system of the land, it might be possible to control and regulate the production and merchandising of commodities in accordance with the needs of the nation and thus regulate the employment of the workers in the various branches of industry. Although, I think, that even a nationally controlled system of production and distribution would not do away with the unemployment entirely, for one nation is often, if not always, dependent on the others. A bad crop in Argentina, for instance, may suddenly reduce their import of goods from the United States, which would have to reduce the production of such goods, with resulting lesser employment of our workers. What might do away with unemployment then is a universal trust or cooperative. But since such a trust or cooperative is nowhere near in sight, we may as well deal with realities and face the facts as they are. The fact is, as I have mentioned, that unemployment exists and cannot be abolished entirely. But unemployment can be reduced and the victims of unemployment can be helped.

Insofar as the labor movement is concerned, to my knowledge, most of the attempts to deal with the unemployment situation and to help the unemployed have been made in individual industries by individual labor organizations which know the conditions of their industry as well as the needs of the workers. For this reason, as I said before, I shall not teach you what to do in your own industries. I will endeavor to tell you in my own way what our organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, has done to combat unemployment and to help its unemployed members.

I must say at the outset that our industry is placed in a rather unique position, distinguished from many other industries. For, as you know, the ladies' garment industry is a seasonal one. It has its winter season, and its summer season. Thus, whatever the sufferings of workers in other industries are, our members suffer doubly, because in addition to general or, should I say, cyclical unemployment, we have "our own" seasonal unemployment which comes as regularly as one season follows another. Sometimes the unemployment is of shorter duration, and sometimes it is of longer duration, but unemployment is there, whether the country is prosperous or not. From May to August

and from November to February there is very little work in the garment trade, and, therefore, very little employment for our members. You probably remember that the presidential campaign of 1924 was fought out on the basis of prosperity. Yet the Governor's Advisory Commission in the cloak and suit industry of New York, which has made a study of the garment industry in New York, has found that the majority of our workers there are employed an average of only 31 weeks during the year. (Governor's Advisory Commission Report of an Investigation, by John Dickinson and Morris Kolchin, 1925). In other words, there is either total unemployment or partial unemployment of most of our members amounting to about 21 weeks yearly. You probably also remember that the year of 1925 was also a very prosperous one for most of the industries, yet the Bureau of Research of the Cloak and Suit Industry of New York, an institution which was maintained jointly by the employers and the union, has found unemployment much greater than during the previous year. (Unemployment and Earnings of Workers, 1925, by Morris Kolchin, Bureau of Research, New York, 1925). The majority of our people had only about 27 weeks of work during that year. And what is true of New York is also true of most of the other centers in which garments are produced.

II.

There is no wonder that from the inception of our organization the problem of unemployment has been outstanding and under continuous discussion in our union. No wonder also that we have not attempted, as many other labor organizations have, to create a union unemployment benefit fund, for the obvious reason that no union, similarly situated, could accumulate funds sufficient to pay benefit to workers who are unemployed to such a great extent. We therefore have looked for other measures to combat unemployment. Unquestionably some of these measures are not new, they have been adopted by practically the entire labor movement. Others, however, are unique among the labor organizations of the United States.

We started out with the realization that seasonal unemployment, just as cyclical unemployment, is not the fault of the worker. We also started out from the premises that a worker who is willing to work, but is unable to find employment, has to live in the dull period as well as in the busy times, and whether a worker works or not, he must be provided with sufficient means to keep his body and soul together. Since it is the nature of our industry that our members have to go through long stretches of unemployment twice a year, we felt that it was the duty of the industry in which our members spend their lives to provide the workers with a livelihood. In view of unemployment we thought it imperative that the wages of the workers at the time they work be raised to such a level as to provide them with funds for the slack period. As you see, our fight for higher wages was a double-edged one. Together with the entire labor movement, we

aimed to increase the material condition of the workers, but in addition to that we aimed to compensate them for the periods of enforced idleness. No wonder that our enemies hurl at us the constant accusation of "bankers' wages" of our workers. To what extent the wages of the workers have been increased can be seen from the table which is taken from the publication of the Bureau of Research, Wages and Wage Scales, 1925, by Morris Kolchin, New York.

TABLE XLV.—Average Weekly Earnings in Specified Industries in New York City, July, 1924, to June, 1925.

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings	
	Male	Female
Women's Garments	\$45.15	\$25.96
Machinery	37.10	23.18
Furs and Fur Goods	34.21	21.46
Boots and Shoes	42.59	20.23
Printing	36.65	19.28
Men's Clothing	34.63	21.38
Women's Headwear	31.74	14.95
Bakery Products	26.24	20.82
Confectionery	27.53	19.28
Cigars and Tobacco		

An examination of this table will show that the male workers of the women's garment industry have the highest weekly earnings in New York City, \$45.15. The printing trades have the second highest average, \$42.59, and the fur workers come third, \$37.10. Of the female workers the highest average wage is also in the women's garment industry, \$25.96. Since then, as you know, the wages have again been

considerably increased and it is fair to say that since 1910, that is, since we came into real existence, our wages have increased at least 200 per cent. In other words, our workers receive three times as much as they did in 1910.

Now, I want to state here quite frankly that, in making our demands for higher wages, we had to take into consideration the question of whether or not the industry could stand such high wages. For, after all, one might kill with an overdose of demands the goose that lays the golden eggs. However, we found that the industry did not suffer from the high wages that are enforced in the manufacturing of garments.

In our industry the wages of the workers do not form the largest portion of the value of the product. According to the United States census figures wages in the garment industry constitute only 15 per cent of the price of the garment and an increase of 10 or 15 per cent now and then did not materially raise prices. And the employers as well as we have realized that the workers in the garment industry are entitled to a living, and that the consuming public, who after all is also responsible for the seasonal character of the industry, must share in the responsibilities for maintaining the workers who are making their garments. It is, however, important to note that all the complaints of some of the employers in times of stress about the impossibility of high wages of the workers in the industry, and of the wages in the garment industry being higher than in any other American industry, deal with wages which the workers receive during the time of work, and

(Continued on page 7)

A Labor Fire Insurance Company

A Successful Example of Practical Idealism

By DR. HERMAN FRANK

FOR over fifty years there has existed in New York a cooperative workers' enterprise, which has met with considerable success. We mean the "Workmen's Furniture Fire Insurance Society" (227 E. 84th Street). This society insures the furniture and household goods of workers all over the country. In these days, when trade unions are fast becoming interested in various financial undertakings, such as banking, insurance, investments, and cooperative apartment houses, the discovery of an already existing workers' fire insurance organization is not likely to create a special furor. Still, one must remember that this organization has been operating since 1872, and is, in character and structure, a one-hundred-per-cent workers' institution and therefore deserving of some consideration.

The founders of this institution were class-conscious New York workmen of German descent. They brought with them from their old home their radical traditions and a strong idealistic belief in Socialism. Many of them had thrown themselves heart and soul into the task of forming an American section of the "International Association of Workers"—(the First International)—which was organized in London in 1864 by Karl Marx and by several other radical and labor leaders. It may almost be said that the seeds of Socialism in this country had been planted by these German immigrant radicals.

First Realization of a Vision

Unity and cooperation is the foundation of the modern labor movement, especially in the economic field—in the form of trade unionism and cooperative enterprises, and these class-conscious German workers, even as

as far back as sixty years ago, had laid equal stress upon the economic as well as upon the political phase of the class struggle. Unfortunately, however, there had not existed in America at that period the proper environment for a real cooperative workers' movement (such as cooperative groceries and general stores), which existed in many European countries. Despite these obstacles, however, those pioneers of radicalism in America did not entirely abandon their dream of a real cooperative labor undertaking, in a spirit of solidarity and equality.

The first practical realization of this dream took shape in 1872, in the formation of this Fire Insurance Society, soon after the great fire in Chicago, in which over eighteen thousand houses were destroyed and property amounting to two hundred million dollars was lost, including two hundred lives.

The German labor leaders immediately launched a campaign for a cooperative fire insurance society, which would serve exclusively the interests of the workers. Mass meetings were called in the old "Casino," at Mott and Houston Streets, at that time the German quarters of the city, and the plan met at once with great enthusiasm among the working masses.

Disension Halts Success

But even in those pioneer days, the New York labor movement suffered from internal disagreements. The "International" was split into two factions, the "Marxists" and the "Bakuninists", and the internal strife finally caused the downfall of this first world-wide workers' organization. During the years 1872-76, the headquarters of the General Council of the "International" were in New York, which only tended to make the disension on between the rival factions sharper and hindered the growth and progress of the labor movement. Finally

(Continued on Page 7)

of our Chicago and Boston unions proves that, while our workers may at time err and falter, they are essentially splendid union men and women, each of them ready to do their bit, and more than their bit, for the preservation and safety of their trade unions.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



"Red Love"

"Red Love" by Alexandra Kollontai.
Seven Arts Publishing Co., New
York, \$2.50.

Alexandra Kollontai makes an attempt in "Red Love" to present the problems of the new woman brought into being by the Russian Revolution.

It is the story of Vassilissa, a young woman active in the Communist Party who in the early days of the Revolution meets and falls in love with an American Anarchist. Volodya has, however, accepted the Soviet form of government and is working for the Russian state. So their love has its basis not only in a physical attraction, but in their mutual interest in the cause of the workers.

Vassilissa, absorbed in her work—the service of the new social order—neglects her lover, and though long periods of separation do not weaken her love for him, Volodya is drawn into other love affairs. They grow apart from each other. Volodya still finds a friend in Vassilissa but he seeks his love in Nina Constantinova, a selfish, luxury loving bourgeois "hussy". Loving Nina, he continues to live with Vasya for a time. When she suspects the truth at last, she begins by making jealous scenes, but ends by leaving Volodya. Back in her native town, she discovers that she is pregnant, and after an inevitably difficult period of readjustment, decided to bring up her child by herself with the aid of the town's nursery.

The novel shows clearly enough how the tragedies growing out of human relationships are intensified in our own time by the differing environments to which people are subjected. Living as we do in a transition period, we are more open to the influence of great events that influence our minds, touch our hearts, and impress our emotions. These effect changes in our attitude toward many things, but changes different persons in different degrees.

This importance of environment is clearly revealed in "Red Love". Volodya, though still working for the Revolution, is engaged in activity that tends to develop a business psychology in him. As manager of a large factory he is interested in business results and grows away from the workers. This is not very difficult for him, for he has always been much occupied with externals, much concerned with comfortable living.

Vassilissa, on the other hand, has remained the working girl, living the life of a worker. Her occupation keeps her constantly in touch with the people of the masses—their happiness and sadness, their joys and sorrows are close to her. Discouraged at times with the pettiness of the people with whom she works and whose needs are close to her heart, her discouragement never grows far enough to make her lose faith in the ultimate goal of the Russian Revolution.

With Vassilissa, as with many other sensitive and emotional people, this growing apart brings tragedy with it. For sensitive people, more than others, are unwilling to give up friends. And tragedy rises when the clinging is to what the friends have been rather than what they are.

The tragedy is intensified in Vassilissa's case as in too many others by her failure to realize that her interests are varied. Man is not yet made to a pattern; he has conflicting desires, conflicting wishes. He needs a variety of people to satisfy his interests.

Vassilissa cannot understand Volodya's fondness for Nina, for instance, clear as it is. Nina cannot, of course, compensate Volodya for the vanished friendship and affection of Vasya, but she can give him something different, something he wants as much. Volodya, quite humanly loves both women, and reveals it more frankly, for men are freer in admitting varied interests in our time than are women.

Vassilissa, though she is the new folk woman produced by the Revolution, is nevertheless dependent for her happiness upon Volodya, who is not only lover to her, but comrade in a common cause, devoted to the ideal she has given her life to.

When she feels him slipping from her, she tries to convince herself that devotion to the Party is enough to make her happy. To her, the Communist Party is the symbol of the Revolution and its aims, and of the rise of the common worker against all forms of oppression. Her devotion to the needs of the toiling masses she expresses through the Party, it is her symbol of adherence to the workers' cause. But like many people in the world who feel able to get along without desiring understanding or affection, she is shocked to realize that the happiness of human beings is dependent on small things.

It is because of her dependence on Volodya that Vasya clings to him long after their love has died. She is unwilling to recognize that the love has died, until after she has observed the relations between the unhappily married Fedosseyev and Dora and come to realize that as with them the break has come between her and Volodya. Then she admits painfully, "There are other rights not dictated by human laws. They are the commands of the heart."

The Fedosseyev's affair opens her eyes, too, to Volodya's love for Nina. Until then she has been deeply offended that her friend, lover and comrade could exchange her for such a "hussy", hurt that her "darling" can respond to the love of such a woman. The Fedosseyevs open her eyes. She is ashamed to realize that she has been acting as meanly as Dora, trying to compel the love of her husband who loves and is loved by another.

I am convinced after reading "Red Love" that she will find happiness away from Volodya. It will take much time and much change in woman's mind and sentiments before she will entirely readjust herself to such a condition as that of Vassilissa. The author is convinced that the readjustment will come, prophetically revealing it, and it is, of course, probable that it will come.

FANNIA M. COHN.

FAVORS MIXED JURIES OF MEN AND WOMEN

Women are more conscientious jurors. They listen to the evidence more closely than men, and, contrary to generally accepted opinion, it is not easy to play upon their emotions. I have found that the men jurors are more easily appealed to by the one in the prisoner's dock.

However, I would not like a jury of all women. The ideal jury is a mixed one. Men and women need each other in the courts as much as elsewhere. They have different backgrounds and different conceptions of things, and in the jury room the varied views are aired.

Judge Mary Grossman,
Municipal Court of Cleveland.

A Labor Fire Insurance Company

(Continued from Page 5)

ally, in July, 1876, at a conference held in the City of Philadelphia, it was decided that the General Council dissolve and this naturally brought about the dissolution of the "International".

Due to the above mentioned situation, the New York workers' insurance society made very little progress during its early years. In 1879 the Fire Insurance Society had a membership of 547. The organization did its work quietly and unnoticed, many of the leaders doing the work as a "side line", and contributing their time and energy gratis. Not until after the year 1880 did the organization begin to show a marked growth in membership. In 1887 the society had close to four thousand members and the amount of property insured (furniture, clothing, books, etc.) rose to almost a million and a half. The organization then opened regular offices and began to function as a regular insurance society with branches all over the country.

The first branch office was opened in Paterson, N. J. Later offices were established in Yonkers, Newark, New Haven, Elizabeth, and even in San Francisco.

In 1902 there was a fire in Paterson, N. J., and the Workers Fire Insurance Society paid out to its members close to \$12,000. At the time of the earthquake and fire in San Francisco in 1906, the members of the society suffered a loss of insured property amounting to \$19,800, and this amount was paid to them immediately through the company's special agent.

Steady Progress Begins

During the past thirty years the organization has shown steady progress. At this time the membership is 47,000, and half of which is located in New York. Every member joining the society, must pay, upon taking out an insurance policy on his furniture and household goods, one dollar on each hundred dollars of his insurance, which goes towards the "Guarantee Fund", which is the capital of the society. This deposit of one dollar per hundred is paid back to each member upon withdrawal or expulsion from the organization. This money is also refunded to a member pro rata if he decreases the amount of his insurance.

At the beginning of 1927 the total amount of policies reached the sum of forty-seven million dollars, which means that the "Guarantee Fund" amounted to about \$170,000. As no interest is being paid to members on their deposits, all the income on the capital is being used for the expenses of the society and also for a reserve fund. The members, therefore, do not have to pay large premiums, as all the overhead is being covered by the income on the capital, which is invested in state and national bonds, mortgages, etc. The premium assessment amounts to very little—ten cents on every hundred dollars of the policy. It is possible, therefore, for the sum of \$1.50 or \$2.00 a year for a worker to insure his household, even if his property amounts to about \$1,500 or \$2,000. It is needless to say that the commercial fire insurance companies, working for gain only, demand much big-

ger premiums: from \$1.66 to \$22.00 per thousand dollars, even in cities where hazards are much smaller than in New York. What is more important, however, is the fact that many private insurance companies will not issue policies to poor working class families which usually live in districts where the danger of fire is much greater than in other sections of the city.

One Rate for All

The Workers Furniture Fire Insurance Company has only one rate for all its members, no matter where they live. The society lives up to its ideal of cooperation and to the principle of true workers' solidarity in that it has a "flat" rate for all.

According to the constitution of the society, there is no President. The financial secretary is also the business manager. Together with two controllers, they constitute the executive committee. The company also has a recording secretary and an investigation committee of six directors. There are also special investigators appointed from time to time by the executive committee. The salaries of the chief executives are only nominal.

The secretaries of the branch offices are chosen by the membership in the various cities, but are paid by the national office in New York. The assessments must be turned over to the national office, but each local office levies a small tax of a few cents per hundred dollars to cover their local expenses. The salaries of the local secretaries vary according to the number of members belonging to the respective locals.

Hounded by Staff Officials

One may readily understand that the private insurance companies are anxious to do away with the competition they must put up with from this society. The large capitalist firms influence the State insurance commissioners, and they in turn are continually annoying the branches with petty formalities in an effort to destroy their usefulness. Such was the case in Massachusetts, where the State insurance officials forced the local State branch to sever its relation with the national office in New York. Morally, however, the relations between the two organizations had not been altered. In the State of New Hampshire, the branch was forced to give up its office, and the only existing branch in Minnesota is being threatened with the same fate. But in spite of all, the cooperative society still has branches in fifty cities over the United States and in thirteen states. A group of thirty members in a city or town where there is a water supply and a fire department, may form an independent branch and become a part of the national organization.

As we see, the first cooperative workers' insurance society in America had to meet with many difficulties in the course of its progress. Nevertheless, it now rests upon a strong foundation built up by the conscientious and loyal idealists of the labor movement. It is difficult to find a more splendid example of what can be accomplished through practical idealism than the condition of security against fire hazards which the New York Cooperative Fire Insurance Society at present affords.

We Failed

By NORMAN THOMAS

A suffocating sense of futility rests heavily upon the hearts of those who tried so hard to vindicate American honor and justice before the conscience of mankind. We failed. Yet in that failure may lie the best lesson for the future. The Massachusetts tragedy will not be utterly in vain if it reminds us that no progress for any group of workers is safe that is not shared with other workers and no liberty sure which is not general. In a country where Sacco and Vanzetti could die, neither we nor our children are safe.

These reflections do not rise simply from the Sacco-Vanzetti case. During an interval in the death watch held for Sacco and Vanzetti in New York, an attractive young Nicaraguan introduced himself to me as secretary of the Nicaraguan Federation of Labor. He wanted to make the point that his countrymen killed by American intervention in behalf of American profiteers were essentially the victims of the same kind of thing which was about to take the lives of innocent men in Massachusetts. He was right. Every case of injustice and oppression may have its own peculiar feature but underneath them all is a class division of society on the basis of property and power which inevitably creates prejudice and encourages among the strong a frantic and often stupid determination to hang on to what they have by every conceivable device.

The one immediately effective answer to the situation that confronts us is strong organization politically and industrially—organization inspired by a new conception of justice and a vision of the kind of world where bread and peace and freedom belong by right to men who by their toil and their wisdom and their comradeship produce them.

Sacco and Vanzetti truly belong to the ages. Events have made these simple idealistic Italian workers symbols of a great cause. Unless future generations of workers fail them, as they will not, Vanzetti's words will be true: "If it had not been for these things, I might have lived out my life talking at street corners to scornful men. I might have died, unmarked, unknown, a failure. Now we are not a failure. This is our career and our triumph. Never in our full life can we hope to do such work, for tolerance, for justice, for man's understanding of man, as now we do by an accident. Our words, our lives, our pains—nothing! The taking of our lives—lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish peddler—all! That last moment belong to us—that agony is our triumph!"

A. Lawrence Lowell proved that formal education is no defense against prejudice and stupidity. Other Massachusetts officials were bent on proving that science may be made the servant of tyranny. It was a shocking thing that Powers Hapgood should have been sent to a psychopathic ward for examination, simply because he bothered the Boston police by insisting on believing in that liberty of which Boston once called itself the cradle. There was a conscientious objector at Fort Leavenworth after the end of the World War who was sent by a psychiatrist into a horrible ward wherein sexual perversities and mentally unbalanced men were confined for no reason at all except to break his spirit. This prostitution of science to bigotry or oppression is a very dangerous thing.

In this hour of Massachusetts' shame, we shall do well to remember some of her nobler citizens. The public

is familiar with the heroic work of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee and their various lawyers. It knows something of Professor Felix Frankfurter's services. It doesn't so generally know how splendid and self-sacrificing was the work quietly done by Elizabeth Glendower Evans. Not only did she give her money unstintingly but her time and patience and wisdom to the organization of the defense. She became a personal friend of the men. To her and a very few others like her our hearts go out only less than to Vanzetti's sister, Sacco's brave wife and to the children to whom he wrote such moving letters.

The world wide sympathy for Sacco and Vanzetti gives encouraging proof of a solidarity of labor. Nevertheless it is to be deplored that to some extent Communists and Anarchists at home and abroad and ill wishers to America abroad have exploited this tragedy for their own ends which have little relation to justice or the real interests of the workers. The death or suffering of the innocent will not bring life to Sacco and Vanzetti or make the future brighter for our children. For these riots responsibility must be shared by police authorities, agents-provocateurs and unbalanced neurotics. But in these last tragic days no good was done at all by a certain sort of Communist and Anarchist agitator who saw in this case simply one more chance to stir up passion without regard to the result.

The Sacco-Vanzetti case illumined in its lurid light the weakness of civil liberties in America. This was abundantly proved by the conduct of the police in many cities. But to read that Sacco and Vanzetti may be canonized in Russia is strong medicine even for those of us who are most aware of our own country's crimes. For one reason or another Anarchists in Russia have been imprisoned, exiled and executed after trials that fell far short of what is required by justice. The Soviet government not only named no airplanes after them but certainly it did not permit the public display of their ashes nor great demonstrations in their honor. Communists are entitled to credit for whatever sincere efforts they made for Sacco and Vanzetti and the thanks for whatever funds they raised. At the least they seem to have been guilty of gross exaggeration on the last point. But Communists do not make many converts among half-way intelligent people when they presume to speak in behalf of civil liberties!

Where's That Prosperity?

The newspapers are making much of the fact that the General Motors has made a record profit for the first half of 1927 and that the United States Steel has also made a rise in net earnings in the same period. Against this must be set the fact that government figures indicate for the month of June a general decrease in employment and factory payrolls for the third month in succession. As for the farmers, the Department of Agriculture announced that for the crop year ending June 30 there was a decrease of 20 per cent in net income. The Department estimates the average income per farm operator available for labor, capital and management at only \$853 in 1926-27 as against \$922 in the previous year. This estimated decrease for all farmers was borne out by the actual returns from 13,475 farmers which indicated that the average income of this relatively small group dropped from \$1,297 in 1925 to \$1,133 in 1926. As for coal miners, there isn't a ray of light. In the oil fields there is overproduction and prices are relatively

Combating Seasonal Unemployment

(Continued from page 5)

not with their annual income. For with all the raises the Governor's Advisory Commission has found that in 1924 the average wages in the cloak and suit industry of New York were \$2,000 a year in the inside shops, which employ about 25 per cent of the workers, and about \$1,600 a year in the contracting shops, which employ about 75 per cent of our workers. And we all know that this amount is not sufficient to maintain a worker and his family in comfort and decency.

Along with our constant attempt to increase the wages of the workers to an extent that their annual income should enable them to maintain their families in comfort and decency, we have from the inception of our organization endeavored to reduce the hours of work so as to make room for the employment of a larger number of workers who would otherwise be unemployed. Prior to 1900 the working hours in the garment industry were as long as the employers would desire. In fact, the only limit to the number of working hours per day was the physical endurance of the individual worker.

It was the individual employer who was the one who dictated the number of hours which the workers must put in during the week. From 1900 to 1910, the situation with reference to hours had slightly improved because of the beginnings of unionism in the industry. But even during that period 60 hours and even 66 hours per week were not uncommon, for the union was not sufficiently strong to dictate its terms or to control the enforcement of any agreement into which it might have entered. With the beginning of 1910, when our organization has become a part of the organized labor movement and had gathered sufficient strength to command better conditions for the workers, the hours of work began to decrease constantly. In 1910 the 50-hour week was established in the cloak and suit industry of New York and that rule had spread all over the country. In 1919 our organization had introduced the 44-hour week, and in 1923 our organization had introduced the 40-hour week in the dress industry of New York. In the cloak industry the hours of work at present are 42 per week, and according to the agreement with the employers, they are to be reduced to 40 in 1928. And I leave it to your imagination to figure out how much greater the unemployment would be if not for the fact that we have reduced the number of working hours at least 40 per cent.

IV.

In speaking of the reductions of

low.

Maybe General Motors have Henry Ford to thank for part of their prosperity. They may rejoice, but the rest of the country will soon be singing: "Where's that Prosperity?"

hours of work, I must mention that I have in mind the regular working hours. For you understand that in an industry like ours, with its mad rush during four or five months in the year, it is inevitable that overtime be worked. There was a time when the number of hours worked overtime equaled the regular hours of work. From the beginning we have discouraged this practice of overtime with all the means available. We have made it prohibitive by making the rate of pay for overtime work in most cases double the regular pay. We found, however, that this prohibitive price for overtime work was not an obstacle for those employers who were anxious to rush out their merchandise with as great dispatch as possible. Of course some of the employers, instead of paying a high rate of wages for overtime work, employed additional workers, but by far not all of them. You must remember that our organization has established a rule, after years of struggle, whereby a worker who is employed a probationary period of one or two weeks is considered a permanent employee in the factory and may not be discharged without the employer showing due cause to representatives of the union, or in case of a disagreement, to an impartial umpire. The employers, therefore, are not always willing to employ additional workers in rush time for fear that those workers would be considered his permanent employees. They would rather pay the prohibitive rate of wages for overtime work. We therefore have established another rule limiting the amount of overtime that a worker may work during the rush period to not more than ten hours per week, and four hours overtime for female workers in the dress trade.

This limitation of overtime working hours compels the employers either to employ more workers or to lengthen the season. Of course, we don't claim that this prohibition of overtime has done away with unemployment. It has not, but together with the other measures already mentioned, and which I am going to mention, it has a tendency to lengthen the period of employment of the workers who work or to give employment to the workers who are unemployed. And another thing, we have found that even during the slack period there are factories which work full speed or there are sections in the factories which have a great deal of work. And it is quite natural that the management of such factories would work overtime and not employ additional workers. We therefore have prohibited overtime work entirely during the months of slack, and wherever there is work in a factory during the slack period, that work must be performed during the regular working hours, which means, of course, that instead of overtime work additional workers are employed, additional workers have an opportunity to earn what they can.

LEARN DESIGNING

Earn 50 to 200 Dollars a Week

Take A Course of Instruction in
THE MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL
 OF MEN'S, WOMEN'S, MISSES
 and CHILDREN'S WEARING
 APPAREL and LADIES' FUR GARMENTS.

The Mitchell School of Designing, pattern making, grading, draping and fitting of cloaks, suits, dresses, fur garments and men's garments has achieved—

New Ideas—New Systems—Best Results
 A course of instruction in the Mitchell Designing School means an immediate position—Bigger Pay.

DEMONSTRATION FREE AT OUR SCHOOL
 —A GOOD PROFESSION FOR MEN AND WOMEN—
 EASY TO LEARN REASONABLE TERMS—
 Individual Instruction Day and Evening Sessions
 Evening Sessions: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 Call for Free Booklet and Full Information

MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL
 ESTABLISHED OVER 56 YEARS
 15 West 37th Street Telephone: Wisconsin 5768 New York City

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

That scabbing was the main object of the dozen or so of former members of Local 10 who formed an exclusive little scab group after their expulsion from the union, was brought out very clearly to the loyal members of the International when one of the shining lights of the scab outfit was caught red-handed in the act of attempting to break a strike called by the Joint Board to enforce union conditions and to reinstate a member of the International who was active in behalf of the union in that shop.

"Left" Shop Satisfies Boss.

The person referred to is no other than the well-known Tunick, who had already been fined while a member of Local 10 a number of times by the executive board for violation of union conditions and rules of the organization. The firm where Tunick secured employment and for which he was scabbing was the Ben Shindelfield firm. It fell to the lot of Samuel Perlmutter, manager of the Independent and American departments of the Joint Board, to make the "job." This firm conducted a scab shop, or, as it is now commonly referred to, a "left" shop. Union conditions were unknown in this shop. Piece work, long hours and poor wages were the "standard" conditions under which the firm operated its factory. The employee even forced its workers to work on the Fourth of July.

The climax was reached when the one union man, Sam Viers, a member of the International, was discharged for his protest against these intolerable conditions. When Perlmutter assigned a business agent to reinstate this worker the firm refused to re-employ him, saying that it would not employ him nor any member of the International, or, as the firm termed it, "any of the 'rights'." The boss emphatically declared that he was satisfied to run a "left" shop.

There was nothing left for the union to do but to declare a strike, which it did and which resulted in the walkout of about 50 per cent of the workers, including the cutters. Those who remained to scab were the leaders of the defunct Joint Board and their puppets. Tunick, too, managed to get a scab job in this shop.

Perlmutter advised the firm that, if it intended to run a shop, it would have to discharge the scabs and agree to accept union conditions. But again the firm refused, adding that it had no "kicks" against the treatment accorded it by the "lefts." It took, however, but one day for the firm to realize that it would have to recognize the authority of the International if it wished to operate its shop. Perlmutter was called up by the firm, with the result that Viers, the discharged worker, was reinstated, the non-union workers discharged and the firm accepted all other union conditions. Tunick's scabbing thus was wasted as it produced no results for the Communist agency.

Firm Agrees to End Neutrality.

Another case that gave the office a few days of excitement concerned the Madeline Frock Shop at 270 West 38th Street. This firm employed four cutters. Among these was one who refused to meet his obligations in Local 10, and whose influence affected the 3 other cutters in the shop, who were becoming lax in their attendance at shop meetings and other matters in connection with the rules in Local 10. The writer, together with Business Agent Fremed of the Joint Board, took up the matter with the firm and sought to enter the cutting department to instruct the cutters to attend a shop meeting.

One of the firm tried to get around the question of violating its agreement by declaring the shop as "neutral." He explained that a former leader of the defunct Joint Board desired also to take up matters affecting his shop, after which the "neutrality" was declared. Reports had reached the office that the cutters had begun to violate union conditions. One of the violations involved work on a Saturday. Upon the firm's refusal to take up this matter with the representatives of the International, the writer, together with Business Agent Fruhling, stopped the four cutters. This committee of Local 10, the writer learned from confidential sources, was to have been intimidated on the morning that the cutters were ordered to stop work.

However, the plans of the union-smashers failed in this instance as well as in all previous instances. The cutters reported to the office of Local 10, and after they had paid up all back dues, the cutters were accompanied by Business Agent Fruhling to the shop, where they met Bro. Fremed. After some debating the firm was finally compelled to recognize the authority of the International by allowing the business agents into the factory. The bosses also agreed to put an end to "neutrality" and to recognize in the future representatives of the International only.

Still another shop which sought to continue the employment of scabs was Poretz & Poretz. When the Joint Board called the workers of this contractor down to headquarters in order to make secure union conditions in his shop, he hired scabs to replace those who went down.

But, as this contractor had been receiving all its work from a union jobber, the Joint Board ordered the jobber to discontinue sending work to him until he would agree to union terms and to the employment of union workers. The result was that the scabs were discharged and only union workers are now employed in that shop.

Local 10 Committee Active.

Considerable interest was aroused during the past two weeks among the workers by the presence in the cloak and dress districts of a large body of cutters during early morning hours on Saturdays and last Monday morning, Labor Day. These members of Local 10 were the officers and active members ordered there by the executive board to apprehend cutters going to work in violation of the hours of work.

How effective this policing of the districts has proved to be was clearly

seen when, on Labor Day, hardly a member of Local 10 was observed going to work. The committee did see, as on previous Saturdays, some scabs going to work in the name of the "revolution." The patrolling of the district on the previous Saturdays served, it appears, as a warning to the men not to violate Labor Day. On Saturdays, August 27 and September 3, officers, executive board members and active members were in evidence at every point where cutters were likely to pass between 30th and 42nd Streets and Eighth Avenue and Broadway.

This work will be continued for the duration of the present season. For it has accomplished a double object. Not only were the employers taught the lesson that the union was ever present to see to it that union conditions were maintained, but it is the means of giving employment to additional men. Firms that are busy, seeing that they cannot get their cutters to work during illegal hours, are finally compelled to hire additional men.

Another activity that the office still continues is that of shop control. A complete survey of the shops had already been made. Such of the shops as were found good shops or where the cutters properly responded to the orders of the controller to secure their working cards and to place themselves in good standing, have been properly filed. Those of the cutters who did not until now comply with the instructions of the office, however, will be visited again. All the shops in this category were reassigned to controllers and will be covered on the second round.

To Enforce Meeting Attendance Clause.

September is the closing month of the third quarter of the year. According to a previous decision by the members and the decision of the last executive board meeting, that clause of the constitution of Local 10 compelling members to attend at least one

meeting in three months on pain of a fine will be strictly enforced. Hence, it is very important for the cutters to attend next Monday night's meeting, September 12, in Arlington Hall.

Not only is the present month the last of the third quarter, but the next meeting is practically the only one that will be held this month. The Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, will interfere with the holding of the next regular meeting. Hence, members who have not had their books stamped for this quarter, that is, for the months of July, August and September, should attend the meeting this coming Monday to have their books stamped.

The reason why books were not stamped during the early quarters of the present year was that the majority of the books held by the members expired and new books were issued. This has by now been practically completed. Very few members by now retain old books. From now on the holding of the old book will no longer be an excuse for the non-payment of the fine.

The meeting will be important in other respects as well. Among the things that Manager Dubinsky will report will be the conferences that took place recently with the various employers' groups, especially in the cloak industry. These conferences, called at the initiative of the union, were held to find means and ways for the elimination of non-union production. The union charged the employers with sending out work to non-union firms. It has already been announced that the Board of Governors of the Industrial Council had instructed its members "to see that all shops belonging to the Council will live up to the terms of the collective agreement existing between the manufacturers' organization and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union." This announcement was given out in a statement made by Mr. I. Grossman, president of the Council, in "Women's Wear" of September 2.

PIONEER CAMP CHILDREN ARE COMING HOME

Three Pioneer Youth camps conducted as experiments in children's education under the direct auspices of many labor unions are ending their season on Labor Day, and nearly 200 children from New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland are returning home.

The largest of these camps was conducted at Kingston, N. Y., and the other two at Annapolis, Md., and New Hope, Pa. The camp at Kingston had an average attendance of 175 children through the summer, and was conducted under the auspices of an educational committee consisting of leading educators, among them, Dr. Wm. H. Kilpatrick, head of the educational

department of Teachers' College; Dr. A. L. Swift, head of the extension department of the Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Henry R. Livaille, president of the Teachers' Union.

The camp administration applied itself intensely to developing its program without the aid of usual methods of discipline and the conducting of camp programs. They depended rather on the children's native interests and capacities. The program included nature study, woodcraft, handicrafts, dramatics, music, athletics, and the work of improving the camp facilities, such as building athletic courts, painting the camp house, etc.

Many labor unions adopted resolutions of satisfaction with the work of the camps, among them the Baltimore Federation of Labor, the Philadelphia Central Labor Union, the Fur Workers of North America, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the United Cloth Hat and Capmakers Union, and the United Hatters of North America. The latter two organizations voted sums of money toward the project at their conventions this summer.

DONATE MONEY FOR DRIVE

The workers of Neuren Bros., 13 Bleecker Street, Brooklyn have donated \$25 to the campaign fund of the Dressmakers' Union.

Bro. Charles Carotento, manager of the Brooklyn office of the Joint Board, in which district this shop is located, requests as to make an acknowledgment of this gift in "Justice", which we gladly do.

Cutters' Union Local 10!

Notice of Regular and Special Meeting

Monday, September 12, 1927

ARLINGTON HALL,

23 St. Mark's Place. 7:30 P. M.

Last meeting of present quarter for purpose of stamping books.

One dollar fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.